



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

**Colorado Department of Higher Education
Colorado Open Educational Resources (OER) Grant 2021-22
Request for Proposals (RFP) Cover Sheet**

Project Title:

Applicant(s) Names and Contact Information (please include email, phone, and address of primary, secondary, and tertiary contact for proposal):

Institutional Affiliation(s):

In an effort to create cross-campus OER networking and support, please indicate if you consent to sharing your contact information with other applicants from your institution, system, or in the state. The Colorado OER Council intends to connect potential partners throughout the state to pursue goals related to the charge of this initiative.

Select (highlight) one:

- **Yes;** I consent to sharing my information with potential collaborators.
- **No;** please do not share my information with potential collaborators.



Colorado Open Education Resources (OER) Grant

Introduction	The Colorado Commission on Higher Education solicits proposals for grants designed to expand the use of open educational resources (OER) across public postsecondary institutions in the state. The deadline for an institution, faculty, or staff to submit a proposal for consideration is Monday, January 10, 2022 .
Purpose	<p>Senate Bill 21-215 and the associated appropriation provide funding for expanding the use of open education resources (OER) in Colorado. The Colorado OER Council, established by legislation, advises the Department of Higher Education on expanding the use of OER in public institutions of higher education around the state, including through the awarding and tracking of grant funds to create, adapt, adopt, and promote the use of OER.</p> <p>Two types of proposals are solicited for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those from public institutions of higher education to support creation, adoption, adaptation, expansion, and promotion of the use of OER across the institution and among multiple institutions; and • Those from faculty and/or staff of public institutions of higher education, individually or in small groups, to support the creation, adoption, adaptation, expansion, and promotion of OER for specific courses, disciplines, or programs.
Anticipated Outcomes	<p>The Colorado OER Grant Program is anticipated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of OER among faculty, staff, and students in the state of Colorado; • Provide up to \$1,000,000 in funding to institutions, faculty, and staff to support and expand creation, adoption, adaptation, expansion, and promotion of the use of OER in the state of Colorado; • Save students at Colorado's public institutions of higher education at least \$2 million in textbook costs in the academic year 2022-2023 • Advance student learning through improved collaboration, engagement, responsiveness, and curricular relevancy; and • Demonstrate the evolution of Open Education in Colorado and evaluate the impact and benefit of Open Education to students and communities in terms of learning, culturally relevant resources and practices, and more.



<p>Process and Key Dates</p>	<p>Applications in response to the request for proposals (RFP) will be accepted beginning October 20, 2021. CDHE staff and the OER Council will host a series of webinars from October to December 2021 to provide guidance on applications and answer questions about the requirements of this grant program. The deadline for proposals to be submitted is January 10, 2022.</p> <p>All proposals should be emailed to OER@dhe.state.co.us as an attachment in PDF format by 5 p.m. MST on January 10, 2022. The proposal must be submitted as one PDF document and included as one attachment in the submission email; letters of support may be attached to the application email as separate PDF documents. The body of the application email must include the name and full contact details (including name, title, institutional affiliation, phone, email, and mailing address) of the project lead, as well as any secondary or tertiary contacts for the project.</p> <p>Members of the Colorado OER Council and/or their designees will review proposals and make recommendations to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) by February, 2022 about which proposals to fund and in what amount. CDHE staff will bring OER Council recommendations for review and approval from the Commission at the February or March 2022 CCHE meeting. Funds will be dispersed by the CDHE in March of 2022. All funds must be expended by June 30, 2023.</p> <p>Grantees must submit a narrative of progress to the Department by December 16, 2022 and a final report by July 15, 2023. Unexpended funds are required to be returned to the Department by July 2023.</p> <p>Note: In order to avoid conflicts of interest, OER Council members will recuse themselves from reviewing and/or recommending proposals which they have written and/or those that are from their home institutions.</p>
<p>Available Funds</p>	<p>The Colorado OER Grant Program will fund three types of grants with a total allocation of \$1,000,000 for the 2022 grant cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual or Small Group Grants ranging from \$250-\$10,000 that would support the review, creation, adaptation, or adoption of OER by faculty and/or staff, especially at institutions without an OER initiative or associated incentive funding. • Institutional Grants ranging from \$10,001-\$75,000 to support deploying and sustaining existing institution-wide OER initiatives, including through the use of incentive funding for faculty and staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Multi-year institutional grant proposals are allowable; funding beyond the first year is contingent on legislative appropriations. Multi-year proposals can be up for up to 2 years and with a maximum of \$75,000/annually (which must be spent down annually) and \$150,000 maximum for the life of the grant.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative or partnership grants ranging from \$10,000-\$75,000 to support creation, adaption, or adoption of OER across multi-institutional or K-12 partners (which may include partnerships with individual school districts or Boards of Cooperative Educational Services, or BOCES).
Eligibility	<p>Eligibility for the grant program is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional Grants are open to any public postsecondary institution in the state of Colorado as defined in C.R.S. Title 23, which is inclusive of institutional systems. • Individual or Small Group Grants are open to any faculty, instructor, or staff member employed by a public institution of higher education in the state of Colorado. • Collaborative or Partnership grants may be among multiple institutions of higher education or regional campus collaborations, or for courses taught in local school districts. Institutions of higher education must be the lead applicant.
Selection Criteria	<p>The CCHE shall take into account, but is not bound by, the recommendations of the Council. In making recommendations and awarding grants, the Council and the Commission shall consider whether the proposed grant-supported activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) affects courses with high student enrollment or high textbook or materials costs and/or advances the State's progress toward Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) programs such as the creation of ZTC degrees, programs, certificates, pathways, courses, or sequences aimed at saving students money; (ii) affects high-impact courses such as core courses, Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways/General Education courses, courses within statewide transfer agreements, or courses included in concurrent enrollment agreements; (iii) supports adoption, adaptation and/or development of open educational resources by teams of faculty, librarians, and instructional designers within a public institution of higher education or across multiple institutions, making it more likely that the resources will be used in multiple courses or sections; (iv) includes a demonstrated commitment to and plan for accessibility and diversity of materials; (v) aligns with departmental, institutional and/or state mission, goals, or strategic initiatives; (vi) aligns with the current needs of higher education such as responsive to online education, anti-racist curriculum, advancing diversity, equity and inclusion, or COVID-19/other current events; (vii) advances existing institutional OER programs and sustainable initiatives;



	<p>(vii) advances institutional and state strategic initiatives and goals, such as CDHE Strategic Plan or Zero Textbook Cost initiatives (including courses, departments, programs, and full degrees)</p>
<p>Required Sections of the Proposal</p>	<p>Please submit all required sections of the proposal in one document, not to exceed eight pages (addenda--including letters of support and detailed budget plan--are not included in the 8-page limit). Required sections of the proposal are detailed below.</p> <p>An application for an institutional level grant must include:</p> <p>(i) evidence of the existence of an open educational resources committee, whether formal or informal, or list of the personnel who will be involved in the proposed project, or identification of individual or list of the individuals or personnel who will be involved in the proposed project; and</p> <p>(ii) a plan for expanding the adoption, adaptation and/or creation of open educational resources across the campus(es) or institution(s) that receive(s) the grant, which may include awarding grants to faculty members, staff or faculty training and/or support, reducing a faculty member's required teaching hours, or providing other incentives to faculty for adapting and developing open educational resources; and</p> <p>(iii) identification of any library, instructional design, information technology, instructional, or administrative staffing, including project partners, to support the open educational resources initiative for which a grant is requested; and</p> <p>(iv) the manner in which the courses that use open educational resources will be identified for students prior to the time of course registration, which may include identification in the schedule of classes; and</p> <p>(v) the plan for ensuring that open educational resources that are adapted or developed using the grant money are discoverable, publicized, and made available to other faculty, staff, and students within the public institution of higher education and other public institutions of higher education in the State of Colorado including a description of any open licensing, which is detailed in item two (2) of the agreement page of this RFP; and</p> <p>(vi) the manner in which the grant recipient will evaluate the use of the open educational resources developed using the grant, which may include the number of students who are affected and the cost savings to students as a result of the open educational resources developed using the grant and/or the impact on student success, which may include DFW rates, assessment of student learning outcomes, enrollment, impact on retention and persistence, costs of resources replaced, survey data on student performance, student success or satisfaction with the OER, support (such as IT) used in parts of the project, etc.; and</p> <p>(vii) a plan for and commitment to sustaining the open educational resources initiative after the grant is completed; and</p>



(viii) a plan for commitment to accessibility in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. sec. 12101 et seq., as amended, to enable persons with disabilities to access to the open educational resources developed or adapted using the grant; and

(ix) a detailed budget plan describing utilization of grant funds and relevant letters of support (indirect cost recovery is not allowed); and

(x) demonstrated support from departmental or institutional leadership is required and will be accepted in the form of official letters of support (and may be included as separate attachments to the application email).

An application for an individual or small group grant must include:

(i) evidence of the existence of an open educational resources committee, whether formal or informal, or list of the personnel who will be involved in the proposed project, or identification of individual or list of the individuals or personnel who will be involved in the proposed project; and

(ii) information concerning the textbooks and other materials in use at the time the grant is received and the costs of said textbooks and materials; and

(iii) a plan for how the applicant expects to use the grant money to adopt, adapt, or develop open educational resources to replace the textbooks and other materials, and steps the applicant will take to ensure the content produced meets accessibility guidelines; and

(iv) identification of any library, instructional design, information technology, instructional, or administrative staffing, including project partners, to support the open educational resources initiative for which a grant is requested; and

(v) the manner in which the courses that use open educational resources will be identified for students prior to the time of course registration, which may include identification in the schedule of classes; and

(vi) the plan for ensuring that open educational resources that are adapted or developed using the grant money are **discoverable, publicized, and made available to other faculty, staff, and students within the public institution of higher education and other public institutions of higher education in the State of Colorado** including a description of any open licensing, which is detailed in item two (2) of the agreement page of this RFP; and

(vii) the manner in which the grant recipient will evaluate the use of the open educational resources developed using the grant, which may include the number of students who are affected and the cost savings to students as a result of the open educational resources developed using the grant and/or the impact on student success, which may include DFW rates, assessment of student learning outcomes, enrollment, impact on retention and persistence, costs of resources replaced, survey



	<p>data on student performance, student success or satisfaction with the OER, support (such as IT) used in parts of the project, etc.; and</p> <p>(viii) a plan for and commitment to sustaining the open educational resources initiative after the grant is completed; and</p> <p>(ix) a plan for commitment to accessibility in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. sec. 12101 et seq., as amended, to enable persons with disabilities to access to the open educational resources developed or adapted using the grant; and</p> <p>(x) a detailed budget plan describing utilization of grant funds and relevant letters of support (which can be included in addenda portion of document); indirect cost recovery is not allowed; and</p> <p>(xi) demonstrated support from departmental or institutional leadership is required and will be accepted in the form of official letters of support (and may be included as separate attachments to the application email).</p>
Evaluation, Reporting & Required Activities	<p>All grant applications must include a description of how grant recipients will evaluate the use of the open educational resources developed using the grant. This should include estimates for the number of students who are affected and the cost savings to students as a result of the open educational resources developed using the grant. In addition to cost savings, other grant evaluation criteria may include the impact of using OER on student success. These can include, but are not limited to, DFW rates, assessment of student learning outcomes and student satisfaction, impact on retention and persistence or other student success measures.</p> <p>Grant recipients are expected to participate in ongoing, related activities at the request of the Council, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reporting of selected data elements to CDHE to enable compliance with statutory requirements on reporting and evaluation • reporting including internal reporting and engagement with Council surveys • ongoing efforts to make sure the supported activities are accessible • participation in virtual and annual convenings arranged by the OER Council and CDHE <p>Funds that have not been used by final report date must be returned to the Department</p>



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2021-23 Timeline Projection and Expectations

Grant Proposal Process



** Note: the timeline above includes some approximations. Detailed deadlines will be issued to grant recipients with appropriate notice.*

For Information: Please contact the Department of Higher Education at 303-862-3017, or OER@dhe.state.co.us



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Colorado Open Educational Resources (OER) Grant Agreement

Project Title:

Each grant recipient, as a condition of receiving the grant, must:

1. Submit to the council data concerning the number of students affected by open educational resources developed or adapted using the grant; the estimated amount of student savings that results from using the open educational resources; measures of the effectiveness of the grant project; and other data that may be required by CDHE to enable compliance with statutory and CCHE requirements for reporting and evaluation; and
2. Agree to apply a Creative Commons license, which permits the creation of derivative works (CC-BY, CC-BY-SA, CC-BY-NC, CC-BY-NC-SA, or CC0, with CC-BY strongly preferred) to any copyrightable materials produced as part of grant-supported activities other than software, while licensing software with any open source license approved by the Open Source Initiative (such as the GNU Public License (GPL), Lesser GNU Public License (LGPL), Apache License, MIT License, with the GPL and LGPL strongly preferred); and
3. Post new or adapted open educational resources to an open repository in editable file formats or with source code; and
4. Agree to comply with the guidelines and parameters adopted by the council in this RFP for implementing the grants; and
5. Comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. sec. 12101 et seq., as amended, to enable persons with disabilities to access the open educational resources developed or adapted using the grant; and
6. Conduct the activities as described in this proposal form; and
7. Provide institutional/organization funding and resources as stated in this proposal form; and
8. Comply with state requirements regarding the audit of a grant-funded program and supply CDHE with a copy of the mid-term report and any findings for each fiscal year in which those grant monies were expended within 60 days of the completion of the audit; and
9. Keep all records necessary for fiscal and program auditing and give CDHE, or the State Auditor access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents, related to this grant; and
10. Retain all fiscal records for a period of five years; and
11. Provide CDHE with required data and evaluation information; and
12. Comply with the administrative procedures and fiscal guidelines of CDHE including submission of final performance report; and
13. Comply with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000d) prohibiting employment discriminatory practices that will result in unequal treatment of persons who are or should be benefiting from the grant aided activity.
14. Contact the CDHE with any project or budget modification requests prior to making any changes to the original proposal; and
15. Acknowledge that the Colorado Department of Higher Education may terminate a grant award upon thirty (30) day notice if it is deemed by CDHE that the applicant is not fulfilling the requirements of the funded program as specified in the approved project application or if the program is generating less than satisfactory results.

I hereby provide assurances to the Colorado Department of Higher Education that if this institution/nonprofit organization receives a grant under the terms of the OER Grant, it will abide by the aforementioned items.

Name, Title & Organization of Authorized Representative:

Signature/Date:



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Budget Worksheet for OER Program, Staff & Activities

Requested Grant Funding	Matching Funds (Cash or In-Kind)	Project Totals
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Personnel &
Benefits

Indirect costs

Professional
Development

Travel

Equipment,
Materials &
Supplies

Official Functions

Incentives

Other (Feel free to
add other
categories if not
included in this
template)

**OVERALL
COMBINED TOTAL**

Please be sure to double-check math to ensure columns and rows add up correctly.

Budget Narrative

Please summarize the proposed uses of grant funds detailing each budget category.